

Queen's Park Today – Daily Report May 7, 2018

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Quotation of the day

“Tanya Granic Allen will no longer be a candidate for the Ontario PC Party. We are a party comprised of people with diverse views that if expressed responsibly we would respect. However, the fact is her characterization of certain issues and people has been irresponsible.”

PC leader Doug Ford responds to a video of Mississauga Centre PC candidate Tanya Granic Allen making homophobic remarks by dropping her from the party late Saturday afternoon.

Today at Queen's Park

On the schedule

The House will reconvene at 10:30 a.m. for the second last question period before Wednesday's writ drop.

In the afternoon, MPPs will debate **Bill 53**, Government Contract Wages Act, with just 30 minutes of debate allotted on the third reading stage of the bill.

MPPs will then move to third reading debate on the budget, **Bill 31**, Plan for Care and Opportunity Act. Three hours of debate have been allotted for third reading on **Bill 31**, split evenly between the government, PCs and NDP.

Both **Bill 53** and **Bill 31** will be voted on at third reading on Tuesday morning after question period, after which the House will rise and Premier **Kathleen Wynne** will request Lieutenant Governor **Elizabeth Dowdeswell** dissolve the 41st Parliament.

There is a possibility the government will introduce back to work legislation, in regards to the 10-week long York University strike, before the adjournment.

In the Park

The Canadian Society of Yad Vashem is scheduled to host a reception for MPPs on Monday afternoon.

Leader watch

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** attended a handful of community events Sunday, including the annual Paddle the Don and the Ontario Police Memorial Foundation Ceremony of Remembrance on Queen's Park grounds. In the afternoon, Wynne participated in the Khalsa Day Parade in Mississauga.

PC leader **Doug Ford** officially opened his campaign office in Etobicoke North on Saturday morning before meeting with supporters and local PC candidates in Brampton.

On Sunday evening, NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** participated in a Khalsa Day Parade at the Sikh Spiritual Centre in Malton.

Ford turfs former PC leadership rival Tanya Granic Allen as Tory candidate

PC leader **Doug Ford** has removed former Tory leadership contestant **Tanya Granic Allen** as the candidate for Mississauga Centre after another round of homophobic comments were made public.

"Tanya Granic Allen will no longer be a candidate for the Ontario PC Party," Ford said a statement issued late Saturday afternoon. "We are a party comprised of people with diverse views that if expressed responsibly we would respect. However, the fact is her characterization of certain issues and people has been irresponsible."

The move comes after the Liberals unearthed [video](#) (since removed from YouTube) of Granic Allen speaking about internal Croatian politics: "What I hear about Hrvatska [Croatia] trying to push radical sexual education on the young or gay marriage—you know I almost vomit in disbelief," Granic Allen says in the video. "I'm like are you kidding me? How can this be happening? Just 20 years ago we were liberated from this communism, but now we are embracing these lack of values, these lack of ideals."

At a press conference Saturday afternoon, the Liberals also revealed a 2000 quote from Granic Allen in the *National Post* in which she equated abortion with the Holocaust.

"The fact Doug Ford happily endorses Tanya Granic Allen's candidacy gives her and her hate-filled views credibility," said Liberal candidate **Shelley Carroll**. "He will have nobody but himself to blame when even more hard-right elements come out of the woodwork to support his campaign."

At 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, Granic Allen [tweeted](#) that Ford's campaign manager had informed her she was no longer a candidate. "I'll have more to say about this and Ontario politics in the coming days," she said.

Granic Allen won the Mississauga Centre nomination on April 21 with 55 per cent of the vote.

The social conservative response to Granic Allen's dismissal was swift and angry. Life Site, an anti-abortion, Christian values news outlet, wrote the decision to oust Granic Allen "is bound to hurt the party among its influential social conservative base."

Campaign Life Coalition head **Jeff Gunnarson** said his group is "ready to do battle" with Ford over his decision to "declare war" on social conservatives in the province.

"We have ten thousand paid-up troops," Gunnarson said. "They are trained, they are eager and they will strike when given the word. This is the worst mistake Ford has made and will make on this campaign. He's going to eat that decision."

Just over 24 hours after releasing the video that led to Granic Allen's dismissal, the Liberal campaign team held another media event at OLP headquarters to draw attention to a podcast where Canadian neo-Nazis endorse Ford. The podcast, titled *This Hour has 88 Minutes*, is hosted on the American white supremacist website The Daily Stormer. The episode where Ford was discussed featured Montreal-based white supremacist "Zeiger," who is considered one of North America's most influential neo-Nazis.

"I'm converted to Ford Nation now," one man says in the podcast. "I swear we need to hit blue collar people where they are, they don't want to see Muslims in their communities."

"In order to get a guy like Ford into office, a guy who will work with Trump — he is posturing himself as friendly to Trump and friendly to American politics and its very hopeful, like we've said many times, our country always follows American politics by several years, and if Doug Ford is the beginning of that, then I see that as a really hopeful thing. I think people should get behind him."

Ford responded swiftly with a tweet condemning Zeiger's views and criticizing the Liberals of useless mudslinging: "I condemn this guy's views and everything he stands for. If he knew anything about Ford Nation, he would know we welcome people from all backgrounds, religion, & income levels. Nice try, Liberals. #DesperateWynne."

Liberals call for investigation into Ford's 'shady' use of fake news broadcasts

The Ontario Liberal Party has asked Elections Ontario head **Greg Essensa** to investigate PC leader **Doug Ford**'s "shady" use of a "fake news channel" to skirt Elections Financing Act regulations.

Ford's use of the "Ford Nation Live" YouTube channel may be allowing the Tory leader's campaign to pass off party advertising as journalism, the Liberals allege.

The Tories have branded these news hits, complete with graphics, b-roll and "reporter" **Lyndsey Vanstone** asking Ford questions on the campaign trail, as legitimate news

coverage. At issue is the PCs failure to identify itself as the video's creator, a requirement of the Elections Financing Act.

"Ford's Fake News isn't news. It's advertising," the Liberals said. "In trying to pass off political advertising as media coverage the Conservative campaign is not just misleading Ontarians, it may be running afoul of election laws."

"The Ontario Liberal Party is hoping that an investigation into Ford's campaign and Ford's Fake News sheds some light on these shady practices."

Social media users pointed out that pro-Liberal third party advertising group Working Families Ontario also uses an actor posing as a reporter in its anti-Ford videos.

Topics of conversation

- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** says PC leader **Doug Ford's** Friday claim that Ontario taxpayers are on the hook for \$50 million in corporate payouts to American energy company Avista is a "flat out lie."
 - Ford claimed Avista, which Hydro One is in the process of acquiring, has a deal in place that would see 13 Avista executives split \$50 million between them if they are fired within three years of the takeover. Ford suggested this would be adding 13 Americans to "Kathleen Wynne's millionaires club. On the backs of hydro ratepayers."
 - Yet as **David Reevely** noted in the *Ottawa Citizen*, this type of contract provision is standard in publicly traded companies and has been in place for a decade, well before Hydro One made an offer to buy the company.
 - "Hydro One customers have not paid one penny to U.S. hydro executives at Avista. Nor will they in future," Thibeault said in a statement. "Salaries and severance payments do not come from Hydro One customers. Doug Ford doesn't seem to know what he's talking about, which is troubling from a self-described sound businessman. Either that or he's deliberately misleading people."
- Ontario signed a comprehensive resource revenue sharing deal with Grand Council Treaty #3, Wabun Tribal Council and Mushkegowuk Council that will see 45 per cent of forestry stumpage fees, 40 per cent of annual active mining taxes, and 45 per cent of royalties from future mines in the Hudson Bay region flow towards 39 communities belonging to the three First Nations groups.
- **Emma Williams**, a Mushkegowuk woman responsible for communications for the Anishinabek Nation, claims she was denied entry to PC leader **Doug Ford's** public event in North Bay. A white colleague of Williams' from Anishinabek News was allowed into the event, but Williams alleges a security guard turned her away, claiming the event was closed to the public.
 - The Tories have denied that anyone was kept out of Ford's North Bay event.

- Ontario's political parties' campaign teams include some of Canada's top strategic talent, as outlined in this weekend's *Toronto Star*.
 - **David Herle** is running Premier **Kathleen Wynne**'s campaign while **Chad Walsh** and **Michele Cadario**, former Prime Minister **Paul Martin** advisors are onboard as senior consultants (Cadario also worked for BC Premier **Christy Clark**). **Mel Wright**, who ran Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**'s 2015 campaign tour, is now running Wynne's campaign.
 - For the Tories, former Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** communications director **Kory Teneycke** is running PC leader **Doug Ford**'s campaign. Teneycke was once a staffer in former premier **Mike Harris**' provincial government; he also brought in **Jenni Byrne**, who ran Harper's campaigns in 2011 and 2015, to lead field operations for the Tories.
 - The New Democrats brought in **Michael Balagus**, the former chief of staff to two Manitoba premiers, to run leader **Andrea Horwath**'s campaign. **Brad Lavigne**, who oversaw former federal NDP leader **Jack Layton**'s 2011 campaign — which led him to become leader of the official opposition — is now a senior advisor to Horwath.
- According to *Press Progress*, **Andrew Lawton**, former host of far-right podcast "Strictly Right" on Rebel Media and the handpicked PC candidate for London West, was an active organizer to create a "Canadian Tea Party" in 2010.
- The investigation into sexual assault allegations against former Ontario PC Party president **Rick Dykstra** have been called a "sham" by former Stephen Harper communications head **Guy Giorno**.
 - Dykstra resigned as PC Party president in February just hours before Macleans Magazine was set to publish an expose on the assault allegations dating back to his time as a Member of Parliament in Ottawa.
 - Giorno is taking issue with the process third-party investigator **Carol Nielsen** is using to interview witnesses, including not allowing him to bring in a court reporter to record their interviews.
 - Nielsen was hired by the Conservative Party of Canada to investigate how the party handled the allegations against Dykstra during the 2015 election campaign.
- Ahead of Monday night's first televised leaders' debate, Green Party of Ontario **Mike Schreiner**, who is excluded from the debate at the behest of the broadcasters, is challenging PC leader **Doug Ford** to join Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** and NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** to support fair debates that include all party leaders.
 - "While the Premier and the NDP leader have welcomed Greens into the televised debates, Doug Ford goes silent. What exactly is he afraid of?" Schreiner asked in a statement.
- Ontario's new Financial Accountability Officer, **Peter Weltman**, begins the first day of his five-year term Monday morning.

Today's events

May 7 at 9:30 a.m. — Etobicoke
Premier **Kathleen Wynne** and Children and Youth Services Minister **Michael Coteau** will make an announcement at the Etobicoke Children's Centre.

May 7 at 12 p.m. — Toronto
Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister **Marie-France Lalonde** will unveil a monument commemorating correctional services staff in Whitney Plaza near Queen's Park.

May 7 at 1:25 p.m. — Toronto
NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will participate in the Laidlaw Foundation's Youth Town Hall in the Ada Slaight Hall at Daniels Spectrum. Ontario Liberal Leader **Kathleen Wynne** will also speak at the event at 2 p.m.

May 7 at 3 p.m. — Mississauga
Mississauga—Brampton South MPP **Amrit Mangat** will make an announcement at SOTI Inc. on behalf of Economic Growth and Development Minister **Steven Del Duca**.

May 7 at 6:15 p.m. — Toronto
Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne**, PC leader **Doug Ford** and NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will participate in the first televised leaders' debate of Ontario's 42nd general election campaign at CityNews studio. The debate is 90 minutes long and will feature six questions in a randomly drawn order.



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Appointments and nominations

Ontario Liberal Party

- Community volunteer and student leader **James Howard** was nominated Thursday evening as the Liberal candidate in Oxford.
- 519 Community Centre chair **David Morris** has been nominated to run for the Liberals in Toronto Centre.

PC Party of Ontario

- After dropping **Tanya Granic Allen** as a candidate for Mississauga Centre late Saturday afternoon, the PCs appointed Granic Allen's runner-up, nurse **Natalia Kusendova**, to run in her place.

Ontario NDP

- Local riding association president **Marc Benoit** will seek the NDP nomination in Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry.

Funding announcements

InvestinOntario

- Ontario will join Ottawa in investing \$110 million in Japanese automaker Toyota in conjunction with a \$1.4 billion spending promise from the company. It will allow the company to build the new RAV4 SUV at its plants in Cambridge and Woodstock.
 - On Friday, Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** and Transportation Minister **Kathryn McGarry** announced the investment will add 450 new manufacturing jobs and retain more than 8,000 existing jobs at the southwestern Ontario facilities.
 - The new agreement will also support research and development into hybrid vehicles and new automation technology in paint and plastics, while providing specialized worker training, including 1,000 co-op placements.

Ministry of Economic Growth and Development

- Ontario is investing \$7 million through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund in Samuel, Son & Co. and Burloak Technologies to create and retain over 80 positions in Oakville. The companies will use the money to build a new facility and expand operations by December 2022.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- Ontario is investing \$8 million in Comet Biorefining via the Jobs and Prosperity Fund - Food and Beverage Growth Fund. The investment will establish the world's first commercial-scale bio-based ingredient refinery in the province and help create almost 250 direct and indirect jobs in Sarnia.

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

- Ontario is investing \$24 million into the northern film and television industry through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

News briefs — Governmental

Mediator report finds ‘no reason to believe’ negotiations will end York-CUPE strike

An external mediator brought in by the government on April 13 to help end the CUPE staff strike at York University found there is “no reason to believe” continued negotiations will resolve the dispute.

Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** and Advanced Education and Skills Development Minister **Mitzi Hunter** issued a statement Friday thanking commissioner **William Kaplan** for his report on the strike, which is now entering its third month.

“We are disappointed that this dispute has not been resolved,” the ministers said in a [statement](#). “Our government's focus is on the students, and our priority continues to be getting them back in the classroom as quickly as possible. Although negotiated agreements remain the best way for collective agreements to be reached, Mr. Kaplan found that the parties have reached an impasse.”

Kaplan recommended the government ask York administrators and the CUPE local 3903 bargaining team to enter into consensual interest arbitration as the best path towards reaching a settlement. The government “accepts all of Mr. Kaplan's recommendations,” Flynn and Hunter said, and calls on both sides to read Kaplan's report and begin consensual interest arbitration immediately.

But negotiation is the best way to find a resolution to the ongoing strike—not arbitration, said CUPE 3903 chair **Devin Lefebvre** in a [statement](#). While the union representing the 3,000 striking workers appreciates Kaplan's report and welcomes many of his recommendations, CUPE believes the commissioner's report “gives York and any other employer free rein to ignore their obligations to bargain in good faith.”

“We have grave concerns about the manner in which York has conducted themselves,” Lefebvre continued. “Since the strike began in early March, York has repeatedly refused our requests to resume bargaining.” Agreeing to consensual interest arbitration now would “surrender our members' constitutionally guaranteed right to bargain collectively.”

News briefs — Non-governmental

Horwath stumps party's northern plan

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** unveiled her party's northern platform Friday in Thunder Bay, promising a slew of health care and infrastructure investments to improve the quality of life for northern Ontarians.

"Let's respect the north and invest in northern people," Horwath said in a statement. "Let's give northern youth the opportunities they deserve, and northern families the care they need."

The cornerstone of the NDP northern plan is a \$19 billion investment in health care for new facilities and upgrades to existing hospitals so patients can get the care they need without having to travel to southern Ontario.

Horwath is promising to bring the Northlander passenger train back into service, a similar campaign promise that PC leader Doug Ford has made at an estimated annual cost of \$45 million. The NDP leader is also promising to make winter road maintenance services public again to improve safety on northern roads.

And as part of a broader effort to keep young people in the north, Horwath is promising a \$1 billion investment in the Ring of Fire to create more resource extraction jobs and keep northern schools open.